

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

August 26, 2004

For immediate release

- 1. Conservation Reserve Program general sign up begins Aug. 30**
- 2. Conservation Central groups offer information for producers at Farm Progress Show**
- 3. Midwest radioactive waste commission meeting on Tuesday**
- 4. DNR enforcement actions**

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM GENERAL SIGN UP BEGINS AUG. 30

DES MOINES — The United States Department of Agriculture will open a general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign up on Aug. 30 and Iowa landowners wanting to enroll in the program need to have their offers ready. This sign up will only allow about 2.3 million acres nationwide to be enrolled.

The CRP is the most successful conservation program in the country improving water quality, reducing soil erosion and creating valuable wildlife habitat. Landowners compete against each other nationwide to enter the program by making offers on what land they will idle and what type of plants they will put on that land.

Offers are weighed against each other based on the number of points received using an Environmental Benefit Index (EBI). The EBI assigns points to the type and location of land, the type of conservation practice, land rental rates and other factors.

“This is a small sign up when compared to previous years so that makes this sign up even more competitive,” said Lyle Asell with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). “Only the best offers will be accepted.” The sign up is open through Sept. 24.

The Conservation Reserve Program participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into contracts for 10 or 15 years. In exchange they receive annual rental payments and assistance to offset the cost to establish conservation practices.

Cropland not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered during this enrollment. CRP participants with contracts expiring in September 2004 or September 2005 may also submit offers during this enrollment.

Landowners who had their offer rejected during the last general sign up should review their conservation practice in the offer to include more diverse plantings and native grasses. Planting trees on some or all of the land earns additional points. Land in the prairie pothole region in north central Iowa is a priority area and will receive 60 additional points.

The Iowa DNR has staff ready to help. Workshops are being set up to help landowners with the Environmental Benefit Index scoring and how they can improve their offers. Workshops will be held over the Iowa Communication Network. Workshops will be listed on the Iowa DNR's Web site at www.iowadnr.com.

For more information, contact Todd Bogenschutz at 515-432-2823.

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CONSERVATION CENTRAL GROUPS OFFER INFORMATION FOR PRODUCERS AT FARM PROGRESS SHOW

12 conservation agencies and organizations providing technical assistance

ALLEMAN — From watershed success stories to on-farm personal health issues, Conservation Central will offer short talks focused on the issues producers care about during the Farm Progress Show in Alleman next week.

The Conservation Central tent is the place to learn more about how to protect your watershed through natural resources conservation. More than 10 agencies and groups can be found under the tent, featuring this year's theme of "Protecting Watersheds: Wat'er You Doing?"

For talks, choose from livestock issues to lessons learned from the Raccoon River watershed project on Tuesday. Issues for crop producers and four other topics are featured on Wednesday. On Thursday, look for talks on groundwater flows and on-farm safety.

Each day, five half hour talks and demonstrations will be held in the Conservation Central outdoor area located on lots 15, 16 and 17 on West Avenue. Plan to kick back and rest a little in this outdoor area landscaped with native grasses, wildflowers and trees. Conservation experts from different agencies and groups will talk on the hour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Each speaker will discuss some solutions, technical assistance or financial incentives available to producers.

A complete list of speakers can be found on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.com listed under the Farm Progress Show.

In the big tent, each Conservation Central agency and organization will feature ways in which they can help producers and landowners protect the natural resources in their watershed through cost-share funds, conservation planning and practices, demonstrations or programs like USDA's Conservation Security Program.

A daily schedule of activities and programs will be posted throughout the tent. Following are some of the key activities scheduled for the three days:

- nitrate testing
- native plant identification and education
- groundwater flow demonstration
- finding your watershed address
- how to prepare for the Conservation Security Program
- other watershed related topics

The following groups will have exhibits and staff in the Conservation Central Tent:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Technical & financial help. USDA conservation programs.
- Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Dept of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). State cost-share incentive programs.
- Conservation District of Iowa (CDI). Support local districts, set local policies, cost-share for conservation, program coordination.
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Fish, wildlife, forestry and water quality assistance, also featuring Geographic Information Systems (mapping).
- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). Financial incentives, cost-share payments.
- Trees Forever. Conservation buffer demonstrations on farms.
- Pheasants Forever (PF). Wildlife habitat, seed, cost-share, buffer help.
- Iowa Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). Conservation advocate, professional interactions.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Wetlands restoration, fish and wildlife habitat improvement.
- Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund, Iowa Department of Transportation. Provides funding through applications for equipment, educational materials and plantings along city streets, country rights of way and state and federal highways.
- Iowa Watersheds. Technical and organization assistance to local watershed groups. Education and outreach on watershed issues.
- Iowa Association of Water Agencies. Iowa rural and urban drinking water utilities collaborating with agencies and communities to manage water resources.

For more information, contact Karen Grimes, DNR, at (515) 281-5135.

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MIDWEST RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY

DES MOINES — The Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission will hold a special meeting by telephone conference call from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 31.

The meeting will be held on the 4th floor of the Wallace State Office Building, located at 502 E. 9th Street in Des Moines. The public is welcome to attend.

Iowa DNR Deputy Director Liz Christiansen is a commissioner for the organization. Other states represented include Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The meeting agenda includes reconsideration on a budget request for contribution to a National Academy of Sciences study on low-level activity and review of the July 20 meeting minutes.

For more information, contact Liz Christiansen at (515) 281-3388 or by e-mail at Liz.Christiansen@dnr.state.ia.us.

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- Spillway Supper Club, of Harpers Ferry, was ordered to properly close its facility or obtain a water supply operation permit, to pay \$250 in operation and late fees, and to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to operating a public water supply without a permit and failure to pay operation and late fees for 2003 and 2004.
- The Filling Station, of Glenwood, was ordered to properly sample the public water supply at its facility for bacteria, to perform all follow-up sampling when required, to comply with public notification requirements and to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to sample the public water supply for coliform bacteria and failure to submit proof of public notice of these violations.
- Grosch Irrigation Company, of Fort Dodge, was ordered to not discharge waste material from its well-drilling operations to waters of the state, and to pay a \$2,000 penalty. The order is in regards to a drilling fluid spill at a well in Rockwell City.
- Crest Country Inn, of Williamsburg, was ordered to comply with monitoring and reporting requirements, retain the services of a certified wastewater operator and to

pay a \$2,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to monitor its wastewater facility and submit reports as required by its permit.

- F.J. Krob & Co., of Walker, was ordered to cease prohibited wastewater discharges, pay damages to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in the amount of \$1,538.42, and to pay an additional \$10,000 penalty. The order is in regards to a release of nitrogen fertilizer that caused a fish kill in East Branch Blue Creek.
- Frederick Kinzenbaw, Jr. and Max Leonard, of Ladora, were ordered to cease the illegal disposal of solid waste, to remove and properly dispose of all vehicles and other solid waste, to provide receipts verifying proper disposal, and to pay a \$2,000 penalty.
- Joe Wenger, d.b.a. Wenger Construction, of Washington, was ordered to cease the open burning of shingles and other solid waste, and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the open burning of shingles and other building materials that produced large volumes of black smoke and other air pollutants. The order has been appealed.
- Bill Plambeck, of Persia, was ordered to cease open burning of tires and other solid waste, and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the open burning of at least 20 tires in Pottawattamie County, which produced large volumes of black smoke and other air pollutants. The penalty has been paid.
- The Universal Assembly of Christians Church, Inc. and Marsha Leigh, of Glenwood, were ordered to stop open burning, cease illegal disposal of solid waste, to remove all illegally disposed solid waste, to provide documentation of proper disposal, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty.
- Harvey Products, Inc., of Harvey, was ordered to submit complete construction permit applications for all unexempted, unpermitted emission points at its facility, and to comply with all air quality construction permitting requirements and permit conditions. Harvey Products was also ordered to install pressure and flow meters on its fluidized bed dryer emissions control system, to perform monitoring and recordkeeping as required, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty.
- Don W. Christensen, of Estherville, was ordered to cease open burning and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the open burning of a refrigerator, several rubber tires, a plastic tank and miscellaneous farm waste, including oil filters, which produced large volumes of black smoke and other air pollutants.
- Art Vander Waal, of Orange City, was ordered to cease the open burning of tires, appliances and other solid waste, and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the open burning of several tires, an appliance, wood pallets and other solid waste, which produced large volumes of black smoke and other air pollutants.

- The City of Cherokee was ordered to complete a toxicity reduction evaluation (TRE), continue to perform quarterly effluent toxicity analyses until three consecutive samples are found to not be toxic, and to submit a detailed report on the TRE. The report includes recommendations for the elimination of toxic substances or wastewater treatment facility improvements needed to correct the toxic discharges. The order is in regards to the City's wastewater treatment plant.
- David Kass, of LeMars, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- James Schmitz, of LeMars, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Doorenbos Poultry, of Boyden, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Dave Borchers, of Akron, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Tyson Fresh Meats, of Storm Lake, agreed to a consent order regarding a wastewater discharge from its pork processing plant into Storm Lake. Tyson has agreed to take remedial measures to prevent or minimize wastewater discharges and to pay \$6,000 to the Storm Lake Lake Preservation Association (Storm Lake LPA) as a supplemental environmental project, in lieu of a penalty.
- Pet Memories, of Tipton, agreed to a consent order regarding failure to obtain an air quality construction permit prior to installing a new incinerator. Pet Memories agreed to comply with construction permit requirements and to pay a \$500 supplemental environmental project to the Cedar County Conservation Board and a \$200 penalty to the DNR. The penalty has been paid.
- Julie Oden, d.b.a. Centerville Cleaners, of Centerville, agreed to a consent order regarding air quality violations. Oden agreed to pay a penalty of \$800. All other aspects of the original order remain in effect.
- Allsteel Inc. d.b.a. Allsteel Component Plant, of Muscatine, agreed to a consent order regarding air quality construction permit requirement violations. Allsteel agreed to

submit air quality construction permit applications or proof of exemptions for all unpermitted emission units at its facility, and to pay a \$5,000 supplemental environmental project to the Muscatine County Conservation Board.

- Dennis Bandstra, d.b.a. Big Dutch, of Sioux Center, agreed to a consent order regarding solid waste and air quality violations. Bandstra agreed to pay a \$500 penalty. All other aspects of the original order remain in effect.
- Loru Farm Partnership, of Osceola County, agreed to a consent order regarding animal feeding operation violations. Loru Farm Partnership agreed to pay a \$1,500 penalty. All other aspects of the original order remain in effect. The penalty has been paid.

For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131 or Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us.